GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2615
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2016
Drought Hit Areas
Galla Shri Jayadev

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to send a team from the Central Water Commission and the Central Ground Water Board to various drought hit areas in the country to study reasons for drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such exercise has been done earlier also, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on each of such report received therefrom pertaining to various States including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (d) Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation had constituted technical teams comprising officers from regional offices of Central Water Commission, and Central Ground Water Board for an on the spot study of water situation in drought affected areas during 2016. Prior to this, this Ministry had constituteda central team to prepare a vulnerability map and remedial measures for optimum availability of water in Bundelkhand.
The Technical Teams have suggested various short and long term measures specific to the region/area/states, to mitigate water scarcity situation including in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Construction of water harvesting structures, mass awareness among citizens for water conservation, construction of new water storage structures, interlinking of rivers, renovation and repair of existing water bodies are commonly recommended.
State Governments undertake several measures for augmenting, conserving and utilizing the water resources which inter-alia include conservation of water resources in reservoirs and traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge o f ground water. This

Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments in this regard through various schemes and programmes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Scheme for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water-bodies etc. The long term measures taken by the Government to manage water resources in the country are:-
â€¢ The Government has taken up a major programme for completion of 99 ongoing AIBP projects at a cost of Rs. 77,595crores to create an irrigation potential of 7.6 mha. Eight of the 99 projects are from Andhra Pradesh and 11 from Telangana.
â€¢ Special focus is given through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water in the over exploited blocks. In addition, priority has been given for construction of farm ponds in the year 2016-17 to harvest rain water and recharge groundwater.
â€¢ This Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.
â€¢ CGWB has also prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during 2013, involving ground water scientists/experts. The Master Plan envisages construction of 1.11 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country at an estimated cost of Rs.79,178 crores to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) of water. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purpose. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.
â€¢ Besides, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued advisories to States and UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting. 30 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in Building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.
â€¢ CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans, with community participation.
â€¢ CGWB has been organizing mass awareness programmes in the Country to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.

*****